

Ornamenting School Grounds.

The American Cultivator says:—It is a notable fact that the embellishment of school grounds is sadly neglected, and especially in the country, where any attempt at refinement is seldom practised. This lack of attractiveness about schoolhouses is, no doubt, a breeder of disgust for the country, and contempt for the school.

As the traveller rides by many schoolhouses the question, "What possible attraction to children can exist here?" invariably thrusts itself upon his mind. A schoolhouse with a neat exterior and interior, furnished with good blinds, attractive curtains, easy seats, pictured walls and a neat, polished stove, is a much greater inducement to studiousness and good deportment than compulsion at home and discipline by the teacher. We have always observed that in bleak, cheerless schoolhouses pupils are more refractory, less cleanly, and less ambitious than in those of an opposite character. Nor is this contrast between opposites of surroundings a slight one. It is apparent to all who observe. A "hard school" is almost invariably the concomitant of a poor schoolhouse and grounds.

A school ground need not be costly to be attractive, and even if it were, the extra expense would be a direct economy. The school has a remarkable influence upon all the young people in the district. The pleasantest, happiest, most profitable school we ever saw was in a community where the people prided themselves upon the beauty and neatness of the schoolhouse; this was coupled with high-priced teachers. The Michigan Horticultural Society seeks to relieve this common cheerlessness of school premises. The society has made arrangements with a leading seed company whereby all teachers of school who apply may get flower seed without cost. Many schools have availed themselves of the offer; children have taken to the work of preparing the ground, planting and weeding with a wonderful zeal.

In nearly all cases it becomes a matter of pride as to which district will make the prettiest school grounds. Much of the rudeness of school children is absorbed in the new interest which is awakened in tender and beautiful things. This adornment is the "introduction of a factor that threads into every study and displaces nothing." Like all new enterprises, this has had difficulties, but its success has certainly been great. We know of no labor of horticulture which promises more good to humanity than this.

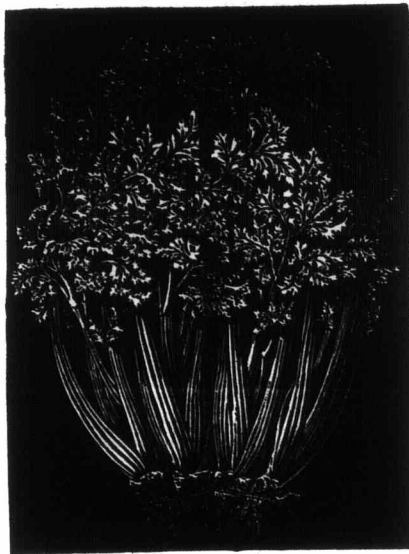
New Celery—White Plume.

Mr. Peter Henderson, in his description of this variety, says it will open an entirely new phase in celery culture. It "sported" in the vicinity of Newark, N.J., some three years ago from what is known as the half dwarf variety, showing a variegation of creamy white, mainly confined, however, to the centre stalk and leaves of the plant, looking as if nature was meeting art half way; for as we know in all other celeries this whitening of the centre so as to make it fit to eat, is only obtained by the slow and troublesome process of "banking" or earthing up, while in the "White Plume" celery no work is necessary other than hoeing

or plowing sufficient earth [to the rows, so as to straighten it.

Another advantage in this new variety is, that not only the stalks are white and fit for use, but the leaves also, giving it somewhat the appearance of a bunch of white feathers, and hence the name given to it of "White Plume." This ornamental feature will be of great value, as it is well known that celery at our best hotels is nearly as much valued for an ornament for the table as for use, and in this we have the rare combination of the qualities.

There is only one drawback to this valuable new celery. Its natural tendency to white prevents it keeping late into winter, and it usually would not be safe to keep it later than the middle or end of January in such sections of the country where it has to be preserved by putting it away in the trenches. But as the greatest quantity of celery is usually used in early winter and during the holidays, for this purpose no other variety is at all so valuable as "White Plume;" and when it is known that



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at least three fourths of the labor is saved in growing it, it may well be believed what a boon it will be to all cultivators of this vegetable. To the greater number of amateurs heretofore, the great labor entailed in growing celery has prevented the attempt, but when it is known that it can be now grown as easily as cabbage or lettuce, there is but little doubt that the area of celery culture will be greatly extended.

FRUIT GROWING PROFITABLE.—Many farmers in all parts of the country were only saved from loss on their last year's work by their sales of fruit. The small fruits have of late years been surer beggers than apples; but when the conditions of high manuring and mulching in dry weather are observed, apple growing is also profitable, and all the more so because the fruit requires some attention to insure success.

If your land is too heavy or rich to grow radishes well, says A. M. Purdy, mix sand liberally with the soil in one part of the garden, and you may raise fine radishes. If your garden is too heavy or wet, draw on plenty of coal ashes or clear sand, mixing well with surface soil.

Stock.

B. A. Shorthorn Association.

The second general annual meeting of the above association was held at the Albion Hotel, Toronto. There were about fifty members present; John Dryden, M. P. P., occupied the chair.

The report of the executive committee referred with pleasure to the growth of the association and its improved standing. Volume two of the Herd Book, which was that day placed in the hands of members, contains the pedigrees of 1,042 bulls and 987 females, and this book has been got up more promptly than any other volume of a similar nature. The entries were closed on the 1st July, and on the 20th Feb. the book is in the hands of the breeders. While for the 25th volume of the American Herd Book, a much smaller volume, \$5 is charged to members and \$7 to non-members, the B. A. H. B. is given free to members, and to non-members for \$2.

The financial report showed a balance on hand at the beginning of the year of \$544.48, and the receipts from the sale of the Herd Book and other sources amounted to \$1,912.95, making a total of \$2,456.53. The expenditure was \$2,154.15, leaving a balance of \$302.19. The 2nd volume of the Herd Book cost less than volume one by \$200, so that the position of the association is quite as good as it was a year ago, and the future is full of promise, as the membership is rapidly increasing, and now numbers 214, including the bulk of the leading breeders of the Province.

Mr. John Dryden, M. P. P., was re-elected President, and the following gentlemen vice-presidents for their respective Provinces:—R. Gibson, Delaware, Ont.; J. S. Williams, Knowlton, Que.; Prof. Lawson, Halifax, N. S.; Acton Burrows, Winnipeg, Man.; Jas. Steele, New Westminster, B. C., and J. L. Inches, Fredericton, N. B.

Mr. J. C. Snell, was re-elected Secretary of the executive committee, and Mr. R. L. Denison, Recording Secretary and Editor of the Herd Book. The office of the Secretary is at 64 King St. East, Toronto.

DANGER FROM PIGS EATING CORNSTALKS.—When pigs are allowed to run in barnyards in winter they will chew cornstalks lying loose in the yard. We have sometimes found serious results from this practice. Cattle eating this innutritious refuse are frequently attacked by a blind frenzy which may result fatally. Why this should be so has not been satisfactorily explained, but the fact should guard against the possible danger.

BREAST COLLARS.—Objection is being made to driving horses with breast collars, especially with heavy loads, as being apt to contract the shoulders. Breast collars are not often used for heavy work. Their neater appearance gives them the preference for single road harness, but even here hame collars are better. The solid collar presses evenly against the shoulder bones and allows less chafing of the skin.